

*Today's
Conservation*



*Tomorrow's
Recreation*



**Shelby County's
Emerald Necklace**

*Connecting the community's
parks to citizens living in all
corners of Shelby County*

Connecting the community's parks and natural resources to citizens living in all corners of Shelby County is a priority for Mayor A C Wharton. Under his leadership, Shelby County government is working toward the vision of a lush emerald necklace surrounding the county and uniting neighborhoods with walking trails and bikeways. Fostering environmental stewardship and enhancing recreational options is a commitment that not only enhances quality of life but also helps to attract a qualified workforce to the community.

The protection of Shelby Farms, the development of a cohesive greenbelt, the formation of a bikeway system and the protection of a strong natural water supply are four important steps in making Shelby County an environmentally responsible community and an attractive destination for outdoor enthusiasts.



Protect Shelby Farms

Nearly four times larger than New York's Central Park, Shelby Farms is a recreational gem for families, athletes and sportsmen. To preserve this 4,000-acre park for future generations, Mayor Wharton is leading a coalition of citizens and government planners to develop a 50-year master plan. The plan will preserve the park's integrity and make it more functional for community enjoyment.

Integrated Road System

- Design concept that is socially, economically and environmentally responsible
- Reduce corridor congestion
- Create the opportunity for non-vehicular traffic to enter and use the park
- Create the opportunity for vehicular and non-vehicular crossing of the corridor including access for the physically challenged
- Provide the traveling public friendlier and easier access to the park

Development that enhances and embraces the park

- Prohibition of outdoor advertising
- Landscaping and scenic beautification
- Context sensitive design that protects aesthetic value while meeting the needs of all Shelby County citizens

New Amenities

- Recommitment and renewed interest in horseback riding and stables
- New paddle boat activity
- Pedestrian bike trails
- Greater venue of active recreational sports
- Safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists

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Establish a Cohesive Greenbelt

Shelby County's natural rivers and streams attract the community's nature lovers from both urban and suburban dwellings. Using federal, state and local funding, Mayor Wharton is working to create a cohesive greenbelt that protects the natural areas and connects all Shelby County communities, from Collierville, to Frayser to Downtown Memphis and all points in between.

The Nonconnah Greenbelt

- Passive leisure opportunities and special event opportunities
- Alternate travel routes
- Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Linkage to the Greenbelt Trail System which will connect Memphis with Germantown and Collierville in a transportation network for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Environmental Education

Wolf River Restoration Project

- Purchase of over 2,000 acres to preserve bottomland hardwoods along the river
- Largest environmental restoration project in Shelby County history
- Installation of stabilization weirs and berms to prevent river head cutting, protect public infrastructure and stabilize eroding banks
- Wetland and floodplain protection

Big Creek Millington Feasibility Study

- Reduce flood damages and protect public infrastructure
- Stream bank erosion protection
- Environmental restoration and enhancements
- Extend outdoor recreational opportunities

Lucius Burch Natural Area Gateway Project

- Construction of gateway at eastern boundary of Lucius Burch Natural Area
- Connects to the Greenbelt Trail System
- Excellent site visibility from Germantown Parkway
- Increased recreational activities
- Green space preservation along commercial and interstate corridors

Oliver Creek Watershed Master Plan Study

- Develops a Watershed management plan
- Provides a plan to reduce flood damage and protect infrastructure
- Provides decision makers 'what if' models for land use determinations
- Will be used as a template for other watersheds countywide





Develop a System of Bikeways

The greenways of Nonconnah Creek, Wolf River and Shelby Farms hold great potential for recreational use. Mayor Wharton has launched a system of bikeways and hiking trails to connect these greenways and encourage a more active community. Bicycling is a pastime that should be enjoyed by all age groups and ancillary benefits include better air quality assessment ratings and an overall quality of life boost for all who live in Shelby County. Using Shelby Farms as a cornerstone, children and adults will enjoy miles of uninterrupted trails under Mayor Wharton's plan.

CSX Rail to Trail Project

- County and city working with the private sector to acquire 13-mile stretch of rail line running from Mid-South Fairgrounds to Cordova

- Maximize potential of existing rail line for recreation
- Provide connectivity deep into the city limits

All Trails Lead to Shelby Farms

- Each piece of the plan further ties outlying municipalities together
- Access to Shelby Farms is enhanced by bikeway connectivity to the park
- Air quality benefits from decreased automobile emission

Protect Natural Water Supply

Being able to enjoy clean drinking water is a luxury for Shelby County and its residents, and Mayor Wharton wants to ensure this essential resource remains for future generations. The county sits on one of the largest artesian ground water supplies in the world, and the area's abundant supply of naturally pure water has fueled the local economy for a century. Through the Memphis Regional Groundwater Study, Shelby County is using federal funds to ensure water quality is protected and sustained.

To learn more about Shelby County's Emerald Necklace, please visit www.shelbycountyttn.gov

